

From: [Dhieux, Joyel](#)
To: [McComb, Martin](#); [Myers, Craig](#)
Subject: Fwd: Preliminary Draft Narrative from Gold King Incident
Date: Friday, August 7, 2015 8:13:47 AM
Attachments: [Gold King Mine Blowout.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

This is the narrative that Martin had me working on yesterday.

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dhieux, Joyel" <Dhieux.Joyel@epa.gov>
Date: August 7, 2015 at 7:45:11 AM MDT
To: "Hestmark, Martin" <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>
Cc: "Cristiano, Gina" <Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov>
Subject: Preliminary Draft Narrative from Gold King Incident

Hi Martin,

I added qualifiers to the narrative to indicate that it is a preliminary, unconfirmed draft.

Joyel

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Joyel Dhieux

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DRAFT * DRAFT * DRAFT * DRAFT * DRAFT

Draft notes from a conversation with Hays Griswold, the OSC on site. These are draft notes and have not been reviewed or confirmed by Hays. No facts have been confirmed.

**Gold King Mine Blowout
August 6, 2015**

EPA, in coordination with DRMS, was conducting an investigation of the Gold King Mine. The intent of the investigation was to assess the on-going water releases from the mine and to assess the feasibility of installing a permanent plug. The plan was to excavate the loose material that had collapsed into the cave entry back to the timbering. The objective was to find competent rock where a permanent plug could be installed.

On August 5, 2015, the backhoe built a platform 4-5 feet high to pull loose material to look for competent rock on the ceiling of the adit. As this work was happening, water started to show from above. Personnel on-site believed it to be a water spring as it was from above. Excavation of the area was halted. EPA and DRMS re-directed the crew to muck material from the floor of the adit. What was thought to be a spring became red and overtopped the dirt plug. It flowed slowly at first but eventually washed away the dirt and flowed at a faster rate. The blowout occurred at approximately 10:54 am.

A large release of water was not expected because there was water seeping from the hill side below the adit. In addition, the opening in the mine adit was believed to be 8 feet by 8 feet. Following the blowout, the opening was found to be much larger and is an estimated 10 feet by 15 feet. Much more water had built up behind the plug.